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Letter dated 8 June 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council

It is my pleasure to attach hereto the national report of Bolivia entitled "Fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals" for the annual ministerial review to take place in Geneva from 6 to 12 July, 2009 (see annex).

I would be very grateful if you could kindly arrange for this letter and its annex to be distributed as a document of the Economic and Social Council document under item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Pablo **Solón**
Alternate Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 8 June 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations, addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council

National voluntary presentation of the Report of Bolivia

Annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council

Fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals

La Paz, June 2009

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Annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council

Fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals

La Paz, June 2009

Context

After more than 500 years of rebellion against the invasion and the permanent plundering of our country; after more than 180 years of resistance against a colonial State; and after 20 years of constant struggle against a neoliberal model, a new Bolivia has been born as the result of the full exercise of democracy. With ample citizen participation, in January 2009, we Bolivians adopted the New Political Constitution of the Plurinational State of Bolivia. Our new Magna Carta includes, for the first time, our indigenous [illegible] native peoples, as well as others previously excluded.

Based on the structural, social, and economic changes proposed and promoted by social movements and native peoples, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, during the administration of its fraternal President, Evo Morales Ayma, has forged a new vision for the country, using, to that end, an effective tool for uprooting the profound inequality and social exclusion that have oppressed most of the Bolivian population. That tool is the National Development Plan (NDP).

In the NDP, the country's economic development is planned in such a way as to exercise and advance national sovereignty by virtue of the social mandate conferred in the Plurinational State. It is essential to coordinate the implementation of the economic and social policies being executed through a new concept of how economic policies and strategies are to be developed in order to establish a new model of development; a new social and communitarian approach; a new productive input-output structure and new international relations, by promoting the effective participation of social, community, citizen-driven and productive organizations aimed at eradicating poverty and social inclusion.

The strategic guidelines of the National Development Plan with its four pillars ("A Dignified, Sovereign, Productive and Democratic Bolivia to 'Live Well'") involve the formulation of development policies, strategies and programmes for Bolivia in all sectoral and regional spheres, based on:

1) Their contribution to the transformation of the country by dismantling the development model rooted in colonialism and neoliberalism and Bolivia's role as an exporter of raw materials;

2) Realization of the development paradigm embodied in the "Live Well" philosophy, which forms part of our cultures. The "Live Well" philosophy basically rests on the complementary nature of access to and enjoyment of material goods, on the one hand, and emotional, subjective and spiritual fulfilment, on the other, in harmony with nature and in a community of human beings;

3) Their contribution to the construction of a new plurinational State as the promoter and protagonist of social, communitarian development in which wealth, income and opportunities are equitably redistributed;

4) The development of a balanced form of coexistence, with equitable arrangements whereby the State economy complements the communitarian economy based on productive processes driven by social and community organizations, micro- and small entrepreneurs, craftsmen, small farmers' organizations, productive organizations, and urban and rural communities and associations: in short, the Plural Economy;

5) The promotion of integral development through the forging of a new model of diversified and integrated development and the eradication of poverty, social inequality and exclusion;

6) The development, as a matter of priority, of the cross-cutting forces of equity, innovation, environmental stewardship, and risk management.

The pillars of the National Development Plan are:

A DIGNIFIED BOLIVIA. This means eradicating poverty and inequity, so as to arrive at an equitable distribution and/or redistribution of income, wealth and opportunities. It involves all sectors generating assets and social conditions, as well as intersectoral Social Protection and Communitarian Integral Development policies, strategies and programmes.

A DEMOCRATIC BOLIVIA. This means building a society and a plurinational, socio-communitarian State, in which the people wield social and communitarian power and share responsibility for decisions regarding their own development and that of the country. It comprises all sectors striving to achieve better governance, transparency, and communitarian social power.

A PRODUCTIVE BOLIVIA. This has to do with the transformation, integrated change and diversification of the pattern of production. It involves developing integral productive complexes and generating surpluses, income and employment with a view to changing the model whereby Bolivia exports only raw materials. It comprises the strategic sectors generating surpluses and the sectors generating employment and income. There are also cross-cutting links with the infrastructure sectors needed to develop and support output.

A SOVEREIGN BOLIVIA. This means constituting a State that plays its part in the international arena as a sovereign, independent state, with its own identity, by pursuing a foreign policy in which political and diplomatic action is shaped by the participation of the country's peoples and by the sustainable protection of its natural resources and biodiversity. This Bolivia will be forged by the sectors responsible for foreign affairs and international economic relations.

The development concept and the pillars of the National Development Plan strike a balance between the changes desired and the macroeconomic sustainability of the country as a tool that will help implement the aforementioned strategies, in such a way that the policies pursued will reinforce economic recovery and foster greater social justice. Social considerations are no longer regarded as "adjustment variables" for economic growth policies. Instead, they now

constitute the principal function of the State, which will be both promoter and protagonist in generating the conditions of equity needed to achieve those goals.

In other words, the National Development Plan dismantles not just the economic provisions, but also the political, cultural, colonial and neoliberal structures erected by the dominant culture and which are embedded in the hidden interstices of the state apparatus as well as in the minds of people warped by individualist practices to the detriment of the principles that once governed the native peoples of this region, such as solidarity, complementarity and reciprocity.

From this perspective, "Living Well" is directly related to people's well-being – that is to say, with additional routine aspects of their daily lives – and to that of the social groups with which they interact. Here what matters is having a decent full-time job with sufficient income, decent housing, adequate food, education, transport, electricity, water, sewage systems, and other materially and physically satisfying facilities in perfect harmony with nature.

With this approach, through its NDP and the new Political Constitution of the Plurinational State, the country expresses its determination to eradicate social exclusion and substantially reduce inequalities and inequities in the framework of a new vision: one that aims to surpass, quantitatively and qualitatively, the Millennium Development Goals to which our country, too, is committed.

The world is currently undergoing a global crisis which will limit the ability to attain those MDGs. The target deadlines set therefore need to be rethought, bearing in mind the responsibility that the countries causing this crisis must assume.

I. Paper on: "Progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals"

The monitoring of the MDGs in Bolivia

Bolivia has so far compiled five MDG progress reports. The three most recent publications were drawn up in the framework of the Interagency Committee on the Millennium Development Goals (CIMDM). This Committee, comprising the social sectors,[1] the Social and Economic Policies Analysis Unit (UDAPE), the National Statistics Institute (INE), the Vice Ministry of Public Investment and External Funding (VIPFE) and the Budget and Accounting Offices, was established to promote MDG monitoring and follow-up by identifying pertinent indicators, projecting their performance over time and defining targets tailored to conditions in Bolivia.

This paper attempts to update the information contained in the *Fifth Report on Progress toward the Development Goals* in Bolivia, based on new survey findings and administrative records. The MDG monitoring indicators presented in this report were, in most cases, updated using preliminary data for 2007 and 2008.

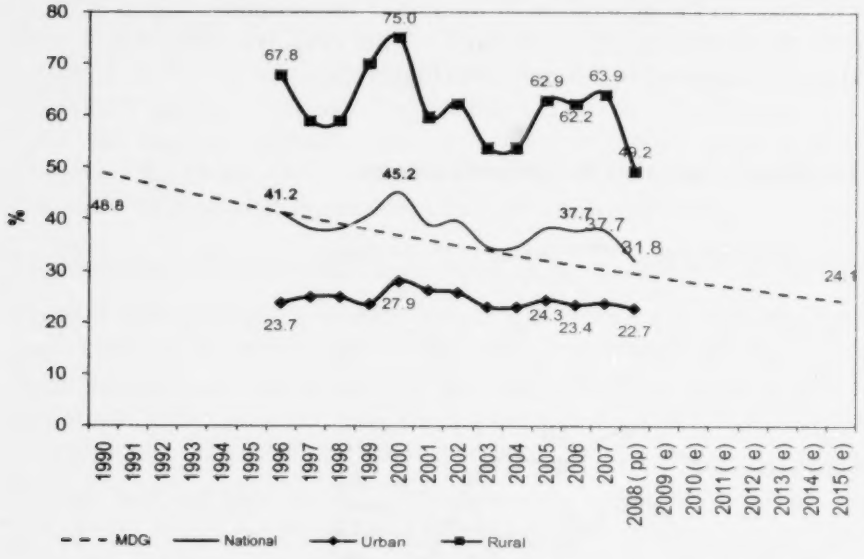
[1] Currently, the CIMDM includes the following sectors: health, education, water and basic sanitation, regional planning and environment, biodiversity, forest resources and environment, and gender and generational issues.

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Proportion of the population living in extreme poverty

The incidence of extreme poverty or indigence is the percentage of people with income below the cost of the basic food basket.[2] Over the past 10 years, the proportion of persons living in extreme poverty declined 9.4 percentage points, from 41.2 per cent of the total population in 1996 to 31.8 per cent in 2008 (Figure 1). However, it is worth noting that the most marked reduction (6 percentage points) occurred in 2007 and 2008.

Figure 1
Changes in the incidence of extreme poverty



Source: Social and Economic Policies Analysis Unit (UDAPE) based on INE Household Surveys. (pp) Preliminary figures subject to revision. (e) Projected.

Broken down into urban and rural areas, the data show that extreme poverty has declined in both areas since 2000, with the sharpest decline occurring in rural areas. The proportion of persons living in extreme poverty in rural areas fell from 75 per cent in 2000 to 49.2 per cent in 2008 (26 percentage points); in urban areas it fell from 27.9 per cent to 22.7 per cent (5.2

[2] Extreme poverty lines have been defined based on the construction of a basic food basket (BFB) containing a set of products that are sufficient to provide an adequate intake of calories, proteins, and other nutrients, calculated according to the average body mass of individuals and their physical activity (ECLAC-UDAPSO, 1995). The specified products for the urban area BFB are the same as those used to compile the Consumer Price Index. For 2008, in urban areas, the BFB (extreme poverty line) averaged Bs. 318.1 (US$ 45) per person per month, while in rural areas it was Bs. 260.3 (US$ 37) per person per month.

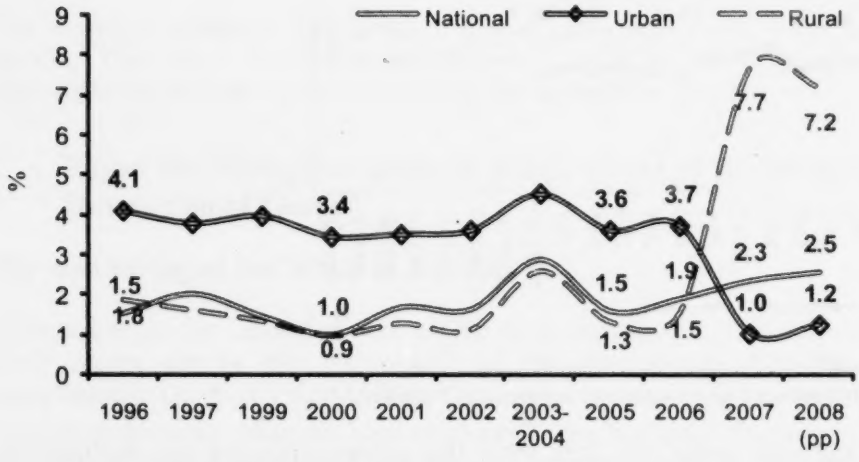
percentage points). Despite these improvements, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty in rural areas is 1.17 times greater than in urban areas.

The sharp fluctuations of extreme poverty in rural areas reflect the vulnerability of the inhabitants of those areas to adverse events, such as natural disasters or economic downturns, such as those that occurred in 1999 and 2000, when extreme poverty in rural areas was 70 per cent and 75 per cent, respectively.

Share of the poorest quintile in national income

One income distribution indicator is the share of national income corresponding to the poorest quintile of the population.[3] The performance of this indicator shows that, over 12 years, the poorest quintile increased its share in the generation of income in the economy. Up to 2005, the share of income generated by the poorest quintile averaged 1.7 per cent. By 2008, that is to say, in the past three years, that share increased to 2.5 per cent (Figure 2).

Figure 2
Changes in the share of the poorest quintile in national income



Source: UDAPE, based on INE Household Surveys. (pp) Preliminary figures subject to revision. (e) Projected.

A breakdown into urban and rural areas reveals large discrepancies between areas. In 2008, the poorest quintile in urban areas helped generate 1.2 per cent of total urban income. In contrast, the poorest quintile in rural areas generated 7.2 per cent of rural income. It is noteworthy that,

[3] It should be pointed out that, although the indicator refers to the share of the poorest quintile in national consumption, the indicator is calculated using household per capita income (not consumption) and taking into consideration both the income that households receive in the form of wages and other sources of income, such as transfers or rent on leased properties. Household income and its distribution are estimated using Household Surveys.

in the last couple of years, the poorest in rural areas increased their share of income, as a result of increased government transfers to specific population groups.[4]

Policies and programmes

In the administration of President Evo Morales Ayma and in the framework of its National Development Plan, the Plurinational State of Bolivia is implementing a policy, known as "Dignity Income", which is having an impact on the ***reduction of poverty and inequality in Bolivia***. Through this mechanism, monetary resources are being channelled to citizens over 60 years of age, distinguishing between those who receive an old-age pension and those that do not. Given the high levels of informality in the labour market, transferring money to those who used to work in that sector helps create the conditions for increasing the incomes of households that had no access to social security coverage in old age.

Informal sector employment not only implies vulnerability in old age. It is also highly dependent on the economic environment. Due to external factors, in fiscal years 2007 and 2008, the increase in food prices reduced consumers' purchasing power but at the same time increased the income of those employed principally in informal sectors, so that many people had incomes greater than the cost of the basic food basket.

Proportion of children under three years of age suffering from chronic malnutrition

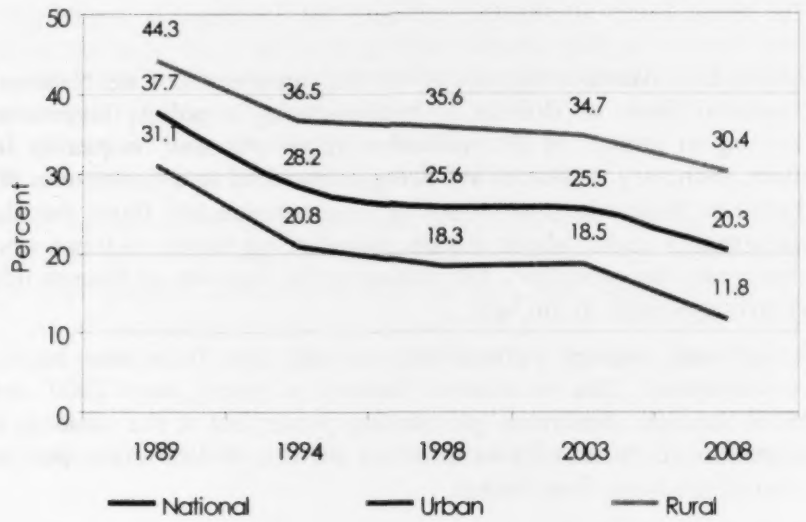
Chronic malnutrition indicators measure retardation in children's growth based on age/height measurements in respect of a benchmark population.[5]. In Bolivia, data on the prevalence of child malnutrition are taken from the National Demographic and Health Surveys (ENDSA), conducted every four to five years. The latest ENDSA in Bolivia was conducted between February and June 2008 and the information for this year is still preliminary.

Chronic malnutrition in Bolivia has tended to decline over the past 20 years, falling 17.4 percentage points between 1989 and 2008. This decline was most marked between 1989 and 1994 and again, recently, between 2003 and 2008 (Figure 3).

[4] According to United Nations data, in Latin America and the Caribbean, the poorest quintile of the population generates, on average, 3.3 per cent of total income (http://millenniumindicators.un.org/), principally dignity income.

[5] The population under review is compared with the benchmark population established by the National Centre for Health Statistics (NCHS), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Centers for Disease Control in the United States. There are now new benchmarks models established by WHO.

Figure 3
Prevalence of chronic malnutrition



Source: UDAPE based on data from the ENDSAs in 1989-2003.
Note: All estimates refer to children born between 3 and 35 months prior to the survey. Children are defined as undernourished if they are below -2 standard deviations for weight-for-height of the NCHS/CDC/WHO benchmark population.
P = Preliminary data

Low height is most prevalent in rural areas in which malnutrition in children under three years of age is almost three times as common as it is in urban areas. In 2008, 30.4 per cent of children in rural areas were undernourished, compared to 11.8 per cent in urban areas. Malnutrition rates broken down by area show that only slight improvements have taken place in urban areas, while urban malnutrition fell sharply from 18.5 per cent to 11.8 per cent in five years.

Taking 1989 levels as its point of reference, the Millennium Goal is to reduce the prevalence of chronic malnutrition to 19 per cent by 2015. However, the National Development Plan's Multisectoral Zero Malnutrition Program envisages a much more aggressive reduction of malnutrition rates and expects to eradicate chronic malnutrition in children by 2010.

Policies and programmes

With actions under the NDP, the country is showing that its objective is to improve food intake and eradication malnutrition in Bolivia. To that end, in 2006, the current government began designing the Multisectoral Zero Malnutrition Programme. This program focus on children under the age of five, with a particular emphasis on children under two years of age, and, ***in its activities, it assigns priority to working with municipalities with a high degree of***

vulnerability to food insecurity. The program is a multisectoral effort and one of the most important challenges facing the current administration.

As of April 2006, the *Universal Maternal-Child Insurance* programme has been promoting the consumption of supplementary food and micronutrients. At the same time, the first phase of the universal health insurance programme will extend coverage to persons of up to 21 years of age (a supreme decree is being prepared for its implementation), while in a subsequent second phase coverage will be expanded through age 59. ***This program also promotes the consumption of supplementary food for children aged from 6 to 24 months and the consumption of food fortified with micronutrients*** for pregnant women. To that end, a supplementary food, called Nutribebé, has been developed. It will be financed by municipal governments.

In addition, as part of efforts to improve dietary practices, nutrition and childcare, emphasis will be placed on promoting breastfeeding. For that purpose, ***Law No. 3460, "Promoting Breastfeeding and the Marketing of Substitutes***", was promulgated on August 15, 2006. This law explicitly promotes, protects, and supports the practice of breastfeeding as the sole form of nourishment for children up to six months of age. For children from six months to two years of age, breastfeeding will continue, accompanied by supplementary foods.

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

Net enrolment ratio in primary education

This is one of the most important indicators for measuring children's universal access to school. The net enrolment ratio in primary education in Bolivia[6] declined between 2002 and 2007 (Figure 4). That could be due to a number of factors, such as the steady drop in public investment in education, the lack of clear direction in educational policies, or, in addition, over-estimation of the population in the calculation of some indicators.[7]

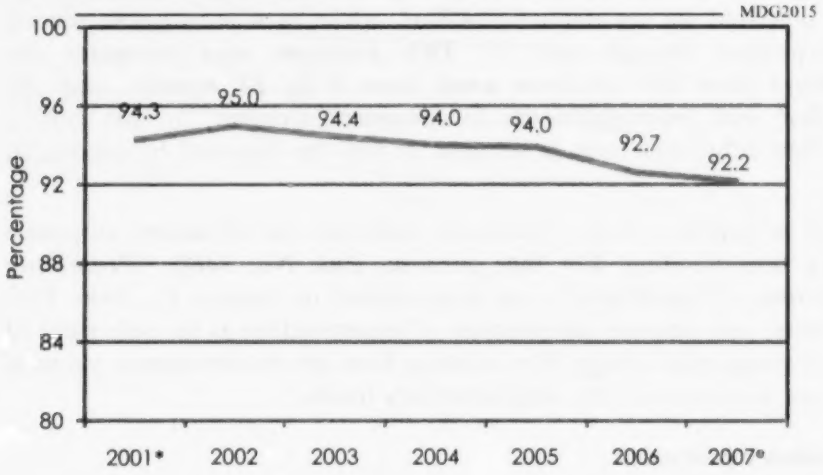
In 2006 and 2007, the drop in net enrolment was more pronounced than in previous years. However, that does not necessarily reflect an actual decline in enrolment. Instead, it could be explained by implementation of the new uniform student registration system (RUDE), which served to reduce over-reporting of pupils enrolled in educational establishments. Thanks to the

[6] Defined as the percentage of the population aged from 6 to 13 enrolled in primary school.

[7] The denominator in the net enrolment ratio in primary education is the population aged 6 to 13. For years subsequent to the 2001 Census, the National Statistics Institute estimated the population cohorts on the basis of information from the last two population censuses. Being an estimate, the population figure does not correspond exactly to the actual number of inhabitants in a given year (it could be higher or lower). The magnitude of the difference, and hence the degree of precision of the estimates, will transpire when the next population census data are available.

data resulting from implementation of the RUDE, there has been an improvement in the quality and accuracy of the information compiled on all educational establishments in Bolivia.[8]

Figure 4
Changes in the net enrolment ratio in primary education (2001-2007)



Source: Based on Educational Information System data (Ministry of Education).
* Datum calculated by UDAPE. This figure differs from the 97.0 reported in the Ministry of Education's Dossier of School Statistics and Indicators because the denominator used was the population datum that takes census omission into account in order to be consistent with the rest of the series.
[e] Datum estimated by UDAPE.

Illiteracy rate of 15-24 year-olds

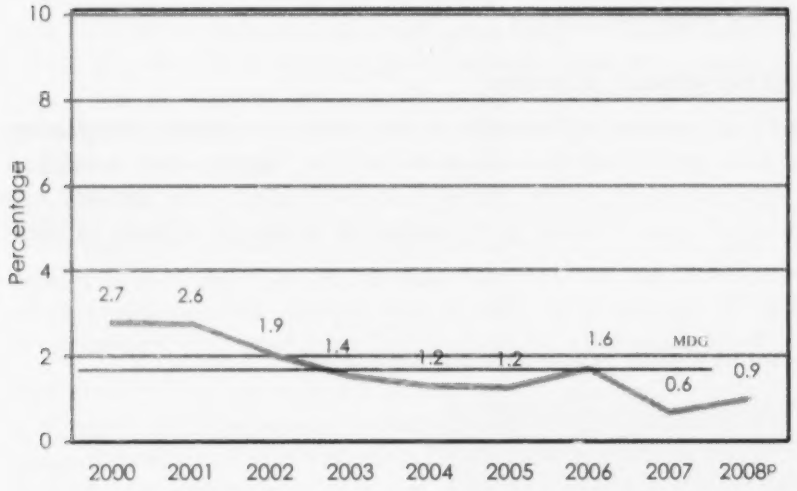
The illiteracy rate of 15-24 year-olds[9] reflects the most immediate outcomes of primary education. Nationwide, this indicator is low, having been less than 2 per cent for the past seven years.

Between 2000 and 2008, significant progress was achieved in lowering the illiteracy rate for the population aged between 15 and 24, as it fell by 1.8 percentage points (Figure 5).The most

[8] The directors of educational establishments or, failing them, teachers entrusted with the task, are responsible for sending all relevant information regarding their schools (number of pupils, teachers, and other matters of interest) to the Educational Information System (SIE) twice a year. In many cases, in order to reduce the risk of losing school equipment items (*itemes*), the directors or teachers tend to report to the SIE a larger number of enrolled pupils than those actually registered in the books.
[9] The illiteracy rate of the population aged 15 to 24 is the percentage of the population in that age range that cannot read or write.

pronounced reduction took place from 2006 to 2007, as a result of execution of the National Literacy Programme, "Yes, I can".[10]

Figure 5
Changes in the illiteracy rate of the population aged 15 to 24 (2000-2008)



Source: Based on INE household surveys. P = Preliminary.

Policies and programmes

As part of the "Live Well" approach, which is directly related to people's wellbeing, an effort is being made to improve enrolment, retention rates and the quality of education. To that end, the State has striven to improve the state of school infrastructure, equipment and human resources. Since 2006, more than 4,000 new school items have been created per year and the Government has continued to promote the construction, expansion and rehabilitation of educational infrastructure. Implementation of the National Program to Train Temporary Teachers has also begun.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia has also taken steps to encourage educational demand. One of the main mechanisms is the ***"Juancito Pinto" voucher, designed to encourage enrolment, retention rates and completion of studies of children regularly attending public primary schools.*** At the ***municipal level***, the most important development is the ***Hope Voucher (Wawanacasataki)***, which has been implemented since 2003 by the Municipal Government of El Alto, although it is also being tried out in the municipalities of Punata, San Pedro de Totora and Sabaya, among others. Other programmes aimed at achieving universal primary education are being supported by international cooperation agencies or other non-public entities.

[10] In December 2008, when the National Literacy Programme concluded, Bolivia was declared an illiteracy-free territory.

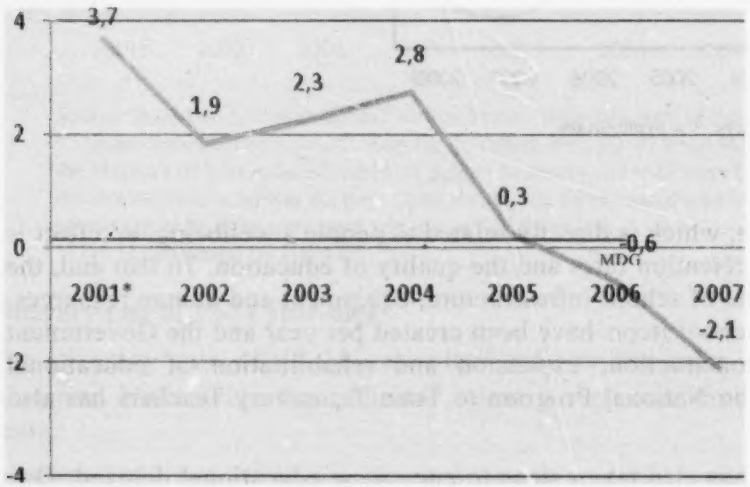
With respect to illiteracy, the main activity was the ***National Literacy Programme, "Yes, I can"***, which led to Bolivia being declared an illiteracy free territory in December 2008. The program was succeeded, in March 2009, by the post-literacy programme called "I can continue". The idea of this programme is to deepen literacy by further enhancing reading and writing and other areas of knowledge.

Goal 3 Promote gender equality and empower women

Gender gap at the end of eighth grade primary education

In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, ***gender differences in the rates for pupils completing eighth grade of primary school have practically been eliminated***. The figures show a marked narrowing of the gender gap over the past seven years.[11] In 2001-2007, the gender gap narrowed from 3.7 points in favour of men in 2001 to 2.1 points in favour of women in 2006 (Figure 6).

Figure 6
Changes in gender gap at the end of eighth grade primary education



Source: Based on SIE data (Ministry of Education) and UDAPE (2007)
* Datum calculated by UDAPE. This figure differs from the gap reported in the Ministry of Education's Dossier of School Statistics and Indicators because the population figure used was that which takes census omission into account in order to be consistent with the rest of the series.

[11] The gender gap is calculated as the simple arithmetic difference between the eighth grade completion rate for males and for females. A positive gap favours males, a negative gap favours women.

The figures for 2006 and 2007 indicate that the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) regarding elimination of the gender gap in the completion rate has practically been achieved, although the trend in this indicator suggests that it will be necessary to consider actions to avoid an increasingly negative gap to the detriment of males.

Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector[12]

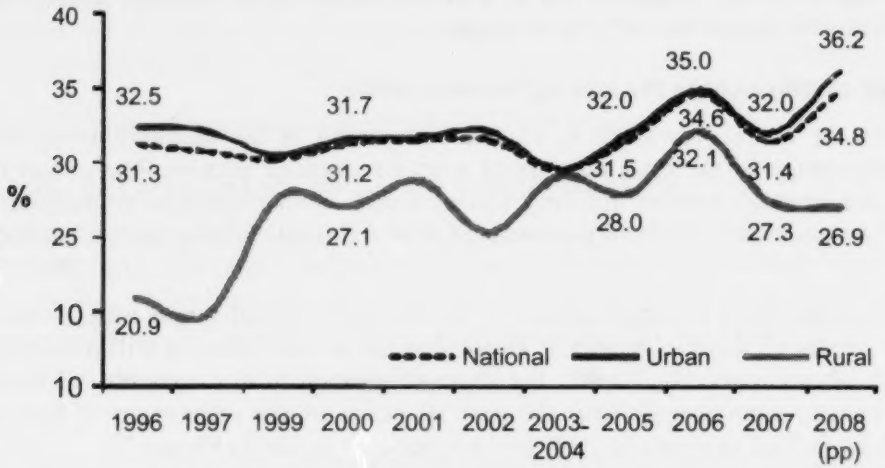
This indicator measures the share of women in wage employment in the manufacturing and services sector, as a percentage of the total number of workers in those sectors. The extent to which labour markets are open to women not only affects equity with respect to employment opportunities, but also the economic efficiency associated with a flexible labour market capable of adapting to change.

In 2008, a little more than one third of wage-earners in the non-agricultural sector were women (34.8 per cent women versus 65.2 per cent men). These data show that there is still a marked gender bias in Bolivian labour markets. Overall, the share of women in non-agricultural wage employment has not changed significantly over the past 10 years, as the proportion of female wage-earners only rose from 31.3 per cent in 1996 to 34.8 per cent in 2008 (Figure 7).

Breaking this indicator down by area of residence, the share of women in wage employment in rural areas in 2008 was 26.9 per cent and in urban areas 36.2 per cent. This difference between areas contrasts with the situation 12 years before, when women's share of wage employment in rural areas was barely 20.9 per cent. In line with the national trend, there has been no significant change in women's share of the urban labour market. By contrast, the proportion of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector in rural areas increased by 16 percentage points between 1996 and 2008. Although this marked increase in rural women's labour participation in the manufacturing and services sectors is encouraging, it should be noted that most rural employment in Bolivia is agricultural.

[12] According to the 2003 United Nations paper, this indicator takes the total number of women in wage employment in the agricultural sector divided by the total number of people (men and women) in wage employment in that same sector.

Figure 7
Changes in the percentage of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector



Source: UDAPE, based on INE household surveys.
pp = Preliminary figure subject to revision. e = Projected.

Policies and programmes

The National Development Plan (NDP) contains an employment policy geared to the needs of Bolivia's workforce. Its purpose is to generate more decent jobs and the full exercise of workers' social and labour rights. The policy includes programmes to enhance the dignity of work; to ensure legal security for the working population with regard to the observance of labour laws; to create the conditions needed to generate productive jobs and more decent working conditions for the population; and to provide the necessary institutional conditions.

Essentially, decent work is respect for the fundamental rights of labour, freedom and social dialogue; the eradication of child labour and forced labour; well-being and equity; with adequate and fairly distributed income; dignity and security; stability, social security, the right to days off, and health and safety at work.

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

Infant mortality rate

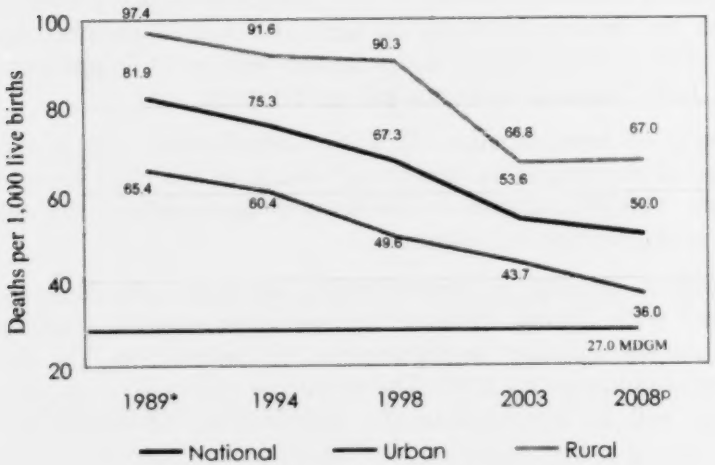
In its NDP, Bolivia expresses its determination to eliminate infant mortality within four to five years, taking as a starting point the information compiled in the National Population and Health Surveys (ENDSA). The last ENDSA was conducted in 2008 and the information culled during it is still preliminary.

Infant mortality indices in Bolivia declined substantially over the past two decades. Nationwide, mortality in children under one year of age (IMR) fell from 81.9 per 1,000 live births in 1989 to 50 in 2008, ***a 40 per cent drop.*** It is worth pointing out that the sharpest

decline in infant mortality took place between 1998 and 2003, when it fell 4.4 per cent a year (Figure 8). If the rate of decline in this indicator for the past five years continues, Bolivia would be very close to achieving the Millennium Development Goal of a two-thirds reduction of infant mortality.

Notable progress has also been made with reduction of mortality rates in children under five years of age. Nationwide, this rate fell between 1989 and 2008 from 129.4 deaths per 1,000 live births to 63.0: a decline of 51 per cent in 19 years.

Figure 8
Infant mortality trend



Source: National Demographic and Health Surveys 1989-2003
* Infant and child mortality rates for 1989 were recalculated to allow comparisons with the data of subsequent years. For that reason, the figures differ from those published in previous reports.
p = Preliminary data.

Despite this progress, the child mortality rate in Bolivia remains one of the highest in the region. Every year, on average, 17,252 children under five years of age die in Bolivia, equivalent to 47 deaths a day (UNICEF). Of them, almost 80 per cent die before their first birthday. Thus, to achieve or surpass the MDG, further effort will be needed, focusing on improving both the health sector and the social determinants of health.

Broken down by area of residence, the infant mortality rate in 2008 showed that the likelihood of dying in the first year of life was still significantly higher in rural areas than in urban areas. It is notable that between 1998 and 2003, the infant mortality rate in rural areas fell 23.5 points, while the rate for urban areas declined only 5.9 points. These improved mortality rates in rural areas may reflect implementation of Basic health Insurance (SBS) and the Expansion of Coverage Programme (EXTENSA), as both programmes emphasized rural areas.

Policies and programmes

One of the most important public policies being pursued by the Plurinational State of Bolivia during President Evo Morales Ayma's administration to reduce maternal-child mortality is the Universal Maternal-Child Insurance programme (SUMI).

Another major public policy undertaking of the present administration is the Multisectoral Zero Malnutrition programme, aimed at eradicating chronic malnutrition in our country. One of the activities in this programme, since April 2006, has involved SUMI distributing nutritional supplement bars, known as "Chispitas", in public health, social security, and other private establishments that have signed an agreement with the health sector. In addition, the Zero malnutrition programme emphasizes diet and care for children under two years of age, by promoting breastfeeding and the Friendly Hospitals initiative. The programme also promotes the consumption of food supplements for children between the ages of 6 and 24 months, and the consumption of foods fortified with micronutrients for pregnant women. A supplement called Nutribebé has been developed, to be financed by municipal governments.

Furthermore, the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI), in coordination with at-risk municipalities, plans to conduct targeted campaigns to improve coverage of the third dose of the 3-dose oral pentavalent RV vaccine. This programme also works with communities, through community leaders, to encourage the immunization of children.

In order to reverse the trend towards a decline in immunization coverage, the National Government has signed an Agreement with Global Alliance Vaccine Immunization (GAVI), under which rewards will be handed out for increases in pentavalent RV vaccination. The aim of this Agreement is to attain 95 per cent coverage by 2010. The resources obtained on account of the prize for increasing coverage will be allocated to the Information, Education and Training component.

Goal 5: Improve maternal mortality rate

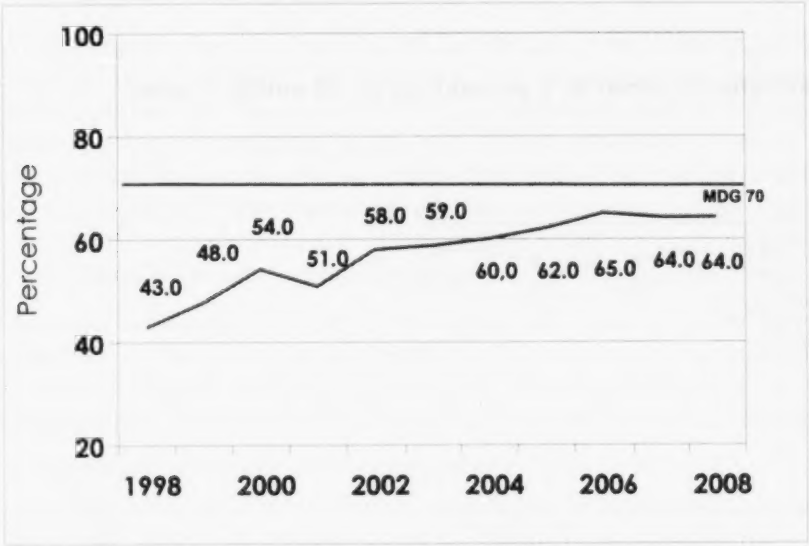
Institutional delivery ratio

The institutional deliverer ratio shows the percentage of births attended by qualified health personnel. It can be estimated using either household survey data or administrative records.[13] The latter source has the advantage that it enables periodic estimates of coverage rates to be carried out and annual monitoring.

In Bolivia, data taken from the National Health Information System (SNIS) indicate that the number of women attended by health personnel during delivery increased from 43.0 per cent in 1998 to 64.0 per cent in 2008: a 49 per cent increase over 10 years (Figure 9). Based on those trends, the health sector has set itself the goal of increasing the institutional delivery ratio to 70 per cent by 2015.

[13] "Qualified health personnel" refers to physicians, nurses, or assistant nurses.

Figure 9
Changes in the institutional delivery ratio



Source: Sixth Millennium Development Goal progress report, UDAPE and Ministry of Health and Sport (MSD).

Policies and programmes

The "Live Well" programme will be based on complementarity between social and economic policies. Accordingly, Bolivia has been implementing maternal child insurance programmes that have increased the probability of receiving appropriate pre-natal care and thereby reduced the risk of mothers dying in childbirth, especially in rural areas. The ***"Juana Azurduy" voucher was launched in May 2009 as an incentive for pregnant women to use health care services, especially care designed to prevent maternal mortality.*** Health care networks are also being strengthened in order to provide timely, high quality care.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Tuberculosis cases cured as a percentage of all notified cases

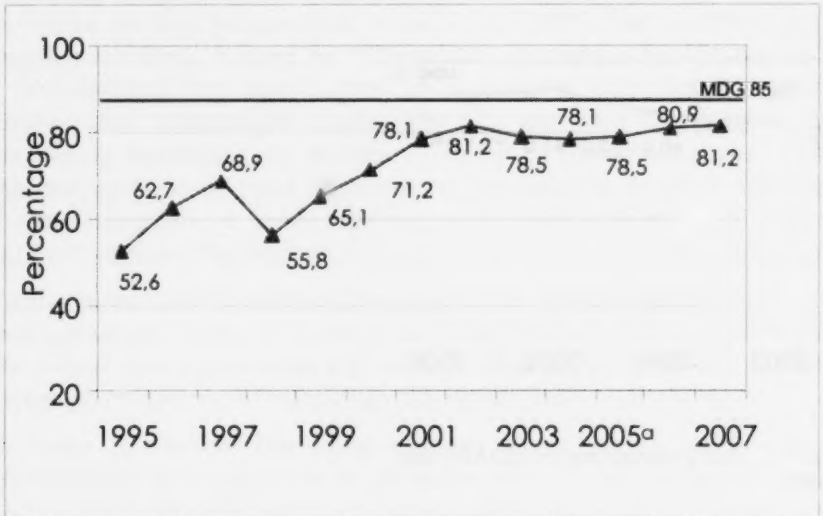
Bolivia has one of the highest rates of notified cases of tuberculosis in the Americas, so much so that it constitutes a major public health problem. According to PAHO/WHO estimates for 2007, there are some 10,000 persons with one form or other of tuberculosis in the country.

Given that treatment cohorts are formed from January to December of each year and treatment lasts eight months on average, the number of patients cured in the cohort under review is known with a one-year lag.[14] For that reason, the most recent figure available for the National

[14] A treatment cohort means a group of patients beginning their treatment.

Tuberculosis Control Program (PNCT) is for 2007, which was 81.2 per cent, an increase over the 80.9 per cent recorded in 2006. The percentage increased thanks to supervised monitoring of patients' treatment (Figure 10).

Figure 10
Changes in the proportion of patients cured as a percentage of all notified cases



Source: Sixth Millennium Development Goals Progress Report, UDAPE and MSD.
[a] In 2005, there was an adjustment to the cohort treated in the Department of La Paz.

Policies and programmes

The National Tuberculosis Control Program (PNCT) has guaranteed the purchase of state-of-the-art inputs, reagents, and medicines for diagnosing and treating tuberculosis free of charge in Bolivia's health centres. Another major development is the forming of a National Association of Patients against Tuberculosis (ASPACONT) in the Departments of Santa Cruz, Cochabamba, and La Paz, including El Alto, which has empowered patients to combat this disease and managed to achieve peer support to improve cure rates.

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Consumption of ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons (tons of ODP)[15]

Protecting the Earth's ozone layer has become one of the major challenges of the past 35 years and it is a problem that affects the environment, international trade and sustainable development. In its Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection policy, the National Government has expressed its determination to comply with ozone layer protection agreements by promulgating Laws 1584 and 1933, which identified the main areas in which ozone-depleting substances (ODS) were being used. The Governmental Ozone Commission (COGO)[16] was established in 1996, as the technical body responsible for taking steps to ensure compliance with the controls stipulated in the Montreal Protocol.

Actions undertaken by the COGO over the past 10 years have helped to establish national capacity to facilitate the elimination of ozone-depleting substances. The handling of ODS is currently subject to the Environmental Protection (Controls on Ozone-Depleting Substances) Regulations, which is the regulatory instrument governing the use of those substances.

Chlorofluorocarbons or chlorofluorocarbides, also known as CFC[17], are the principal ozone depleting substances. For that reason, the Montreal Protocol prohibited their manufacturing and use. Because of their high degree of physical-chemical stability and zero toxicity, CFCs have been used as liquid refrigerants, insulators, emulsifiers, extinguishing agents, and spray propellants. They are originally artificial compounds emitted into the atmosphere mainly through leaks in manufacturing processes or through leaks of the elements they are part of or through degeneration of the materials they comprise.[18]

The consumption of products containing chlorofluorocarbons declined substantially in Bolivia between 2000 and 2005 (5). That decline was due mainly to a reduction in the percentage of refrigerants used. On the other hand, the percentage of foam products used has risen due to the drop in the use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFC), which are gradually being withdrawn and replaced with hydrochlorofluorocarbides (HCFC), through the use of clean technologies.

[15] Ozone-Depleting Potential measures the capacity of a substance to destroy stratospheric ozone, based on its atmospheric life, stability, reactivity and contents that may impair ozone, such as chlorine and bromine. All the ODPs are based on measurement of CGC-11 = 1 (Reference). "Environmental Protection (Controls on Ozone-Depleting Substances) Regulations", 2004.

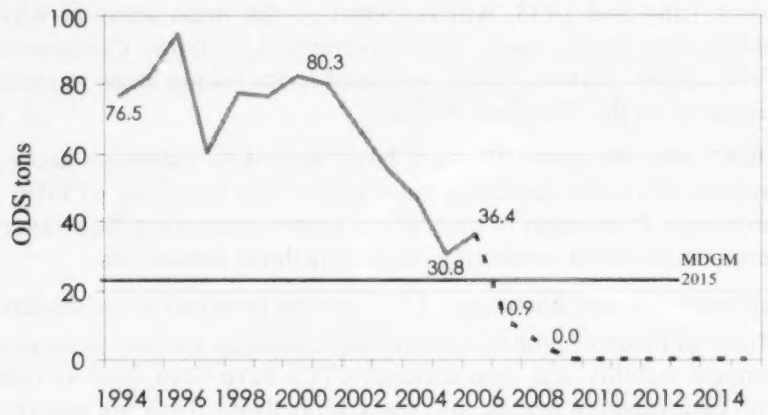
[16] Ozone-depleting substances are harmful chemical substances that destroy the ozone layer and may also release chlorine and bromine atoms in the stratosphere", 2004.

[17] CFCs belong to a whole family of synthetic organic compounds derived from methane or ethane in which the hydrogen atoms have been partially or entirely replaced by fluorine, chlorine and/or bromine atoms.

[18] The mechanism by which they deteriorate the ozone layer is a photochemical reaction: when light impacts a CFC molecule, a chlorine atom is released with a free electron, known as a chlorine radical, which is highly reactive and with great affinity for ozone, such that it breaks the ozone molecule. It is a catalytic reaction. It is estimated that a single chlorine atom destroys up to 30,000 ozone molecules. This reaction has important consequences, since it deteriorates the stratospheric ozone layer, letting more ultraviolet light through to the Earth's surface. Such light has certain negative effects on ecosystems (plant photosynthesis) and human health (skin cancer, visual ailments, and so on).

Despite the progress made, in 2006 the consumption of ODS increased, compared to 2005. Although that spike interrupted the downward trend in the consumption of ODS observed in recent years, it was not a significant increase and it did not exceed the baseline established by the Kyoto Protocol.

Figure 11
Changes in the consumption of ozone depleting substances (tons of ODS)



Source: Compiled by the author based on National Customs and Bolivian Institute for Standardization and Quality (IBNORCA), Data and information provided by companies marketing or using ODS.

Consumption of ODS in 2007 was expected to have declined by approximately 70 per cent compared with consumption recorded in 2006. That will provide continuity to the ODS reduction and substitution policies implemented by the Bolivian Government through the Ozone Programme and through the policy-setting, regulatory, and supervisory measures it has taken. In addition, by 2009, the Government expects to attain the goal set in the "Environmental Protection (Controls on Ozone Depleting Substances) Regulations" of eliminating all imports of ozone depleting substances.

Policy

From a "Live Well" perspective, this policy has a direct bearing on people's overall well-being, that is to say, it is part of their daily life, like decent housing, adequate food, education, transportation, electricity, water, sanitation services and other comforts of a material and spiritual nature, in full harmony with nature.

Goal 8: Develop global partnerships for development

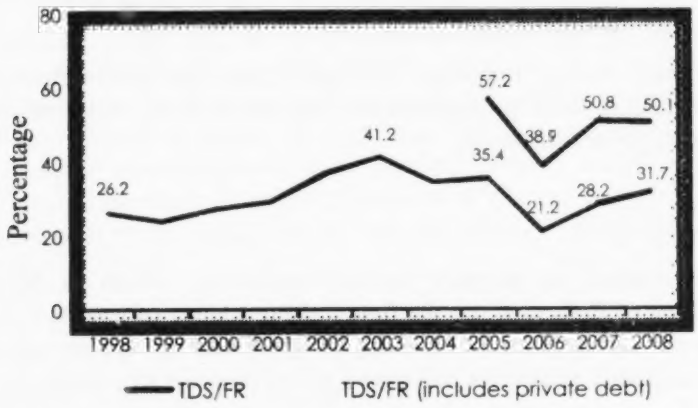
Total debt service as a percentage of fiscal revenue

Total debt service as a percentage of fiscal revenue is the indicator used to monitor the sustainability of Bolivia's debt. That indicator measures the public sector effort to service

principal and interest on the public debt. The indicator covers servicing of both the domestic and external public debt because, in Bolivia as in many South American countries, even though a significant portion of the external debt has been condoned, financial constraints and the decline in concessionary lending led to domestic borrowing. That domestic debt is more expensive and servicing it has limited the availability of financing for priority social programs and projects aimed at combating poverty.

Total debt servicing as a percentage of fiscal revenue increased in fiscal years 2007 and 2008 (to 31.7 per cent in 2008). The increases of the past two years were largely due a 120 per cent increase in the domestic debt of the Central Bank of Bolivia (BCB). The external debt also increased by 10.6 per cent, which translated into higher principal and interest payments. In 2008, the BCB's domestic public debt doubled as a result of the placement of government securities.

Figure 12
Changes in total debt service (TDS) as a percentage of fiscal revenue



Source: UDAPE, based on Central Bank of Bolivia (BCB) data.

Factors explaining the decline in the growth of this indicator include: (i) a 43.7 per cent increase in public revenue in 2008 vis-à-vis 2007; and (ii) the reduction in external debt servicing, due to debt forgiveness under the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) and the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC), which in 2008 reduced debt service outflows by US$ 279 million. (Figure 12)

To compare this indicator's outcomes with the thresholds established by the new debt sustainability evaluation framework,[19] the numerator needs to include private debt service, in addition to domestic and external public debt service. After making that adjustment, the debt

[19] Approved by the Boards of the World Bank and the IMF for countries that received debt relief.

indicator for Bolivia for 2008 is 50.1 per cent, that is to say, above the established debt sustainability thresholds (25 per cent-30 per cent-35 per cent).[20]

Like other poor and highly indebted countries, Bolivia continues to benefit from major debt relief (HIPC I, HIPC II, Beyond HIPC and MDRI). However, at the same time, restrictions on concessionary loans are becoming apparent: in 2008, new loans contracted totalled US$ 1,209.6 million, of which only 9.6 per cent was concessionary, which means that commercial loans are being taken out that will significantly increase debt servicing. This year, 43.6 per cent of newly contracted external debt will come from the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), which grants loans at commercial rates. In this scenario, some of the major challenges with respect to debt are:

- To avoid debt unsustainability problems that could jeopardize financing for social programs and projects, international cooperation agencies should continue lending on concessionary terms to developing countries, given that the evaluations carried out by the agencies themselves and the United Nations recommend that less developed countries avoid taking out commercial loans.
- The developed countries should increase official development aid until they attain the goal of 0.7 per cent of their respective gross national products.
- The relationship between debt and trade is very important. To that extent that asymmetries in international trade are corrected and higher tariff preferences are granted to poor countries, the latter will generate more revenue and need less financing.

II. Conclusions

The "Live Well" programme directly related to people's overall wellbeing, which is being implemented in the New Plurinational State of Bolivia under the fraternal Presidency of Evo Morales Ayma within the framework of the National Development Plan, is applying policies that are having an impact on the reduction of poverty and inequality in Bolivia and transferring resources to citizens over 60 years of age.

The Multisectoral Zero Malnutrition Programme, focusing on children under five years of age and especially those under two years of age, is giving priority to activities in the more vulnerable municipalities. In addition, the programme promotes the consumption of supplementary food for children aged 6 to 24 months, and the consumption of food fortified with micronutrients for pregnant women. The programme also encourages the immunization of children.

As regards food security, Bolivia has a programme that promotes the consumption of supplementary food for children aged from 6 to 24 months and the consumption of food fortified with micronutrients for pregnant women. Law No. 3460 was promulgated to promote breastfeeding.

[20] Differentiated thresholds: 35 per cent for countries pursuing sound policies, 30 per cent for countries with less solid policies and 25 per cent for countries with fragile policies.

The "Juancito Pinto" voucher programme is improving enrolment, retention rates, and the quality of education, by providing incentives for children to be enrolled, attend and complete their primary school grades in public schools.

With respect to illiteracy, the main action being undertaken is the National "Yes, I can" Literacy Programme, which concluded when Bolivia was declared an illiteracy free territory in December 2008.

There has been a marked narrowing of the gender inequality gap. Promoting equity and the empowerment of women is an important activity in the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

Recent actions to improve maternal mortality rates include the launching, in May 2009, of the "Juana Azurduy" voucher as an incentive for pregnant women to make use of health care facilities, especially services designed to prevent maternal mortality.

The harmony with nature proclaimed in the NDP ensures the sustainability of the environment over the long term, tapping and reinstating the knowledge of ancient cultures.

Due to external shocks in 2007 and 2008, the worst impact was the increase in international food and energy prices. Thanks to them, the systemic crisis is multidimensional. It is not just a financial crisis, but an environmental, food, energy and social crisis as well. The effects on lower terms of trade for our exports limit our capacity to progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). A key topic of discussion, therefore, should be the responsibility of those who triggered the financial crisis. Consequently, mechanisms need to be generated and agreed upon to prevent smaller economies from falling into the abyss of the crisis. Otherwise – unless there is a global moral covenant to combat the asymmetries generated by the free market – all our efforts to progress towards the MDGs will be in vain.